NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

To: Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
P.O. Box 3044, 1400 Tenth Street, Room 212
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

From: Department of Toxic Substances Control
Site Mitigation and Brownfields Reuse Program
Office of Military Facilities
Southern California Branch
5796 Corporate Avenue
Cypress, Califonria 90630

Project Title: Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) Interim Removal Actions at Installation Restoration Program (IRP) Sites 4 and 6, Air Force Plant 42 (AFP 42),

Project Location – Specific: Air Force Plant 42, Palmdale, California

Project Location – City: Unincorporated **Project Location – County:** Los Angeles County

Description of Project:

IRP Site 4, Vehicle Washrack and Leaking Underground Storage Tank, is located in the southeastern portion of AFP 42, 340 feet southeast of Runway 4-22. The Site 4 boundaries encompass a shallow unlined drainage ditch. A leaking waste oil tank was removed in 1983 along with contaminated soil in the vicinity. Field investigations indicated the presence of arsenic (27 milligram per Kilogram {mg/kg}) in the drainage swale. The proposed interim removal action includes excavation of an area approximately 60 feet long by 9 feet wide by 2.5 feet deep and the disposal of an estimated 50 cubic yards (approximately 4 truckloads) of contaminated soil offsite.

IRP Site 6, Original Fire Training Circle, is located in the south-central airfield portion of AFP 42, approximately 400 feet southeast of Runway 4-22. The site consists of an abandoned earth-lined burn pit approximately 60 feet in diameter. Field investigations have indicated the presense of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) at13.1 mg/kg for Aroclor 1248 and pesticides {0.14 mg/kg for Aldrin and 0.19 mg/kg for Dieldrin}. The proposed interim removal action includes excavation of an area approximately 62 feet long by 24 feet wide by 6 feet deep and the disposal of an estimated 460 cubic yards (approximately 31 truckloads) of contaminated soil offsite.

Standard engineering/construction practices, such as water spray, will be used to control potential dust emissions during excavation activities. Personal air monitoring for worker safety and continuous dust generation monitoring will be conducted by field staff to ensure compliance with Mohave Desert Air Quality Management District regulations. The excavated soils will be placed into designated bermed areas. The stockpiled soil will be placed on a liner, bermed, and covered with plastic while the results of waste characterization tests are pending.

The final cleanup goals have been established as 9 mg/kg for Arsenic, which is the background level for AFP 42, and 0.27 mg/kg for Aroclor 1248, 0.094 mg/kg for Aldrin, and 0.099 mg/kg Dieldrin. These cleanup goals were developed based on a site-specific human health risk assessment based on applicable industrial worker scenarios. They were reviewed and concurred with on a site-specific basis by a DTSC toxicologist. Upon completion of field activities, if the sites are not suitable for unrestricted land use, institutional controls will be employed to ensure long-term protectiveness of the remedy and to restrict Sites 4 and 6 to industrial use only. Samples will be collected from the bottom of the excavation at Site 4 and from the bottom and side walls of the excavation at Site 6 to confirm that contaminated soils have been removed and that site-specific cleanup goals have been achieved.

Following waste characterization, the contaminated soil will be manifested and disposed of as non-RCRA hazardous waste at a permitted hazardous waste disposal facility in Arizona. Excavated soils will be loaded into truck/trailer units for transport to the disposal site. Soils will be transported by a registered waste hauler. All equipment will be decontaminated prior to leaving the area upon completion of this interim removal action. Site-specific work, health and safety, and emergency response plans will be prepared, and approved, prior to the initiation of field work.

After removal of contaminated soil, the sites will be backfilled with clean soil to restore the sites to their original condition. The time necessary to complete the interim removal action is two days for Site 4 and five days for Site 6.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: Department of Toxic Substances Control

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: U.S. Air Force, Restoration Branch, Acquisition Environmental Safety and Health Division, Aeronautical Systems Center (ASC/ENV), Wright-Patterson AFB, OH
Contact: Robin Stankoff

Exempt Status: *(check one)*

☐ Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
☐ Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(A));
☐ Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
☐ Categorical Exemption. State type and section number:
☐ Statutory Exemptions. State code number:
☒ General Rule (Sec. 15061(b)(3))

Exemption Title: With certainty, No possibility of a significant effect on the environment.

Reasons Why Project is Exempt:

1. The sites are located within the boundaries of AFP 42, an active military installation. Land use at AFP 42 is limited to industrial operations and encompassed by barbed-wire fencng. Site access is through designated gates that are manned by security personnel 24 hours per day. Each plant site is secured by barbed-wire fencing. There is no access available to the area by the general public and access by non-essential personnel will be restricted during soil removal activities.

2. The nearest potential residential receptors are more than half a mile away. The volume of contaminated soil to be removed is small (approximately 50 cubic yards for Site 4 and 460 cubic yards for Site 6). The contaminated soil to be removed are not of a reactive or explosive nature. Excavated materials will be handled by licensed and registered transporters, in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.

3. The project area is a previously developed industrial area which has been disturbed for several years and does not support wildlife habitat. A biological survey was conducted for the sites and no ecological receptors were found.

4. A cultural study found that Sites 4 and 6 do not contain cultural or paleontological resources.

5. The transportation route to the disposal site consists of well maintained, all purpose, state highways and county roads. Thirty five truck loads of waste will be generated and transported with a trap cover to a Class 2 landfill in Arizona. The site is approximately 2.5 miles from the freeway and the planned arrival and departure of trucks will be scheduled to avoid peak traffic period. The City of Palmdale has concurred with the peak traffic hours for the truck route.

6. Prior to backfilling with clean soil and restoration of the sites to their original condition, confirmation soil sampling will be conducted to ensure that all contamination above clean-up levels, as previously described, has been removed.

7. Upon completion of field activities, if the sites are not suitable for unrestricted land use, institutional controls will be employed to ensure long-term protectiveness of the remedy and to restrict Sites 4 and 6 to industrial use only. The Air Force will prepare a Feasibility Study/Remedial Action Plan to document the final remedy for the sites.

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DTSC Branch Chief Signature

1/14/05
Date

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DTSC Branch Chief Name

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